

Sewa Sandesh

June: A Month of Joy, Journey & Joining Hearts Across Borders

Editors Note

Namaskar,

**Reaching the Unreached Borders:
Celebrating Strength Where It's Needed Most**

This month's edition of Sewa Sandesh is not just a compilation of updates- it is a celebration. A celebration of resilience at the borders, of dignity in distant villages, and of the quiet courage of communities that continue to thrive despite the odds.

Our theme, "Reaching the Unreached Borders: Celebrating Strength Where It's Needed Most," is inspired by the many stories that unfolded this June- from the inspiring dialogues at HIMSamaad in the eastern Himalayas, to the heartfelt efforts of women building futures through SHE-CAF, to children and families finding joy and unity in forgotten corners of Chhattisgarh. These are not just interventions, they are moments of shared humanity and joy, often in places long overlooked.

Through Seema Shakti, we reaffirm our commitment to India's First Villages- those who live closest to the border, yet furthest from services. It is here, in these remote pockets, that Sewa blossoms into celebration of life, of hope, and of possibility.

We invite you to read, reflect, and rejoice with us, as we continue to reach, uplift, and celebrate every life, every village, every voice.

With Gratitude & Solidarity,

Dhanyawaad!



Jineshlal R.V.
Executive Director
Sewa International



HIMSamaad 2025

Building Resilience in the Heart of the Himalayas

A Confluence of Ideas and Inspirations in Arunachal Pradesh



In the serene embrace of the eastern Himalayas, HIMSamaad 2025 emerged as a vibrant platform of reflection, dialogue, and vision. Organised by Sewa International in collaboration with RIWATCH and the Government of Arunachal Pradesh, the three-day event unfolded at the State Banquet Hall, Itanagar from 23rd to 25th June, bringing together voices from across the Himalayan belt.

The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Arunachal Pradesh- Lt. Gen. Kaiwalya Trivikram Parnaik PVSM, UYSM, YSM (Retd), in the presence of revered spiritual leader Puja Swami Vidasarananda (Secretary Maharaj, R.K. Mission Hospital). Over the course of three enriching days, the platform hosted distinguished scholars, government officials, and civil society leaders who engaged in powerful conversations on sustainability, indigenous knowledge, and inclusive development. A total of 110 individual participated in which 43+ speakers presented their insightful knowledge in 9 sessions based on Water and Health, alongside 50+ dignitaries also participated.

The event concluded on a high note with the Valedictory Ceremony, where Dr. Chowna Mein (Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh) hailed HIMSamaad 2025 as a "Manthan of meaningful ideas," highlighting its significance in guiding future policies and collaborative action for the Himalayas.

The success of HIMSamaad 2025 stands as a collective achievement- made possible by the contributions and participation of all. Together, we have sown the seeds of transformative dialogue for a resilient and thriving Himalayan future.

Acknowledging Our Partners in Purpose

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all our partners and sponsors whose generous support and unwavering belief in the vision of HIMSamaad 2025 made this event a grand success. Your contributions played a vital role in bringing together thought leaders, communities, and changemakers to engage in meaningful dialogue for the Himalayan region. We are proud to have walked this journey with you and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.



Promoting Hygiene with Compassion in Noida



On June 11th, Sewa International, in collaboration with Technip FMC under their Corporate Volunteer Engagement Program, conducted an impactful awareness session on good hygiene practices for the slum communities of Noida Sector 14.

Along with sensitization, 200 health and hygiene kits were distributed to promote safer and healthier living. This initiative is a step forward in building awareness and dignity through community care and corporate partnership.

Homes Shattered, Yet Hope Restored – Rebuilding Lives in J&K



As part of our Seema Shakti initiative, Sewa International, in collaboration with Sewa Bharti Jammu & Kashmir, carried out a series of relief activities across the border regions of J&K.

In Uri, Baramulla, we supported 98 families and 2 temples with 980 tin sheets to repair their rooftops damaged by shelling, restoring their homes and dignity.

In RS Pora, we helped revive Shri Tarsem Ji's dairy-based livelihood by providing high-yield buffaloes and a cow, ensuring a stable income for his family.

On 11th June 2025, we successfully conducted the distribution of 200 cement bags. The distribution took place in coordination with the local community to ensure that the most affected and deserving households were prioritized.

Meanwhile, our team, led by Executive Director- Sh. Jineshlal R.V, conducted an on-ground visit to affected villages, listening to stories of displacement and resilience, and shaping focused relief strategies to stand firmly with the border communities.

Ride for Sewa – A Journey Towards Seema Shakti



June witnessed the powerful continuation of Ride for Sewa, a spirited initiative where a dedicated group of riders embarked on a mission to connect with border villages- the First Village of our Nation. This unique journey symbolizes our commitment to Seema Shakti, a pledge to empower and stand in solidarity with communities living at the nation's edge.

The ride began in New Delhi, with 19 core riders who stayed throughout the journey including one female volunteering, embodying resilience and determination every mile of the way. As they reached Jammu, the team was joined by 7 inspiring local women riders, bringing the total to 26 riders united in their mission. Together, they carried forward the message: no village is too remote when Sewa calls, and visited RK Pura village in J&K region.

Through this initiative, Sewa International continues to bridge distances- geographical, emotional, and societal- shining a light on the stories, struggles, and strength of our border communities, and reminding us all that the edge of the nation is where the heart of service truly beats.

Family, Fun & Empowerment – SHE-CAF Jute Training Group, Chhattisgarh



As part of our SHE-CAF initiative, Sewa International organised a joyful community picnic for the women of the Jute Training Group in Chhattisgarh and this time, their families joined in too!

The gathering turned into a heartwarming celebration of togetherness, where husbands and children shared meals, laughter, and moments of bonding. After weeks of hard work and skill training, this outing offered a well-deserved break and a reminder that empowerment isn't just individual, rather is collective and deeply rooted in family support, as we all know that when a woman thrives, her family and community flourish with her.

Grassroots Leadership Camp – Building Tomorrow's Sewa Leaders



As part of the Sewa Fellowship 2025–27 selection journey, Sewa International successfully conducted three dynamic Grassroots Leadership Camps (GLC) in Jaipur, Guwahati, and Bengaluru. These camps marked the final step of the selection process, where over 120 shortlisted candidates from 28 states participated. The process was enriched by the active involvement of 73 individuals– including past fellows, volunteers, enablers, facilitators, and interviewers– who supported the selection with great energy and commitment.

With the selection now complete, we look forward to welcoming the new cohort of fellows who will soon begin their transformative journey under the Sewa Fellowship 2025–27.

Celebrating World Environment Day – Grassroots Action in Village Dungar



On June 5th, World Environment Day, Sewa Umadevi Self-Help Group and the Kishori Group in Village Dungar came together to honour the Earth with a day of meaningful action and creativity. From village cleanliness drives and plastic reuse activities to awareness chart-making and eco-friendly crafts, the community showcased their commitment to sustainability.

What made the celebration truly special was the leadership of empowered women and enthusiastic adolescents, proving once again that real change begins at the grassroots.

Let's continue to protect and nurture the only home we all share – Our Planet, Our Responsibility.

This month, we are delighted to introduce Manvar Rawat (District Manager, Almora), as one of the pillars of our team at Sewa International.



Manvar hails from Pauri Garwal district in Uttarakhand, where he lives with his family– his father, younger brother, his wife, and two children. His journey with Sewa International is deeply rooted in his personal experience during one of the most challenging times for the region. In 2013, when the devastating Kedarnath floods struck, Manvar was actively involved in rescue and rehabilitation work. *"We delivered relief materials to people stranded in the affected areas,"* he recalls. *"We worked in both the Badrinath and Kedarnath valleys, helping people in distress."*

The following year, in 2014, he formally joined Sewa International. He started by setting up a computer training centre, but soon realized that the real challenge lay in addressing the livelihood issues of the local communities. *"We spoke to the people, listened to their problems, and decided to help them become self-reliant,"* he shares. Manvar and his team initiated the formation of Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to empower women and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities. Today, their efforts have blossomed into a network of over **500 SHGs**, engaging more than **7,000 women**, supported by **8 federations** that ensure their long-term sustainability.

Reflecting on this journey, Manvar says with pride, *"When a disaster strikes, people's livelihoods are the first to suffer. We dreamt of changing that, and today I can happily say that even during tough times, their livelihood doesn't stop."*

What does the word Sewa means to you?

"Sewa is a value instilled in me by my family – it means thinking of others before yourself, listening to their concerns, and stepping forward to help in whatever way you can."

One of the moments that fills you with joy!

Seeing the transformation of the very people he helped years ago during the floods. *"Back then, they were struggling to survive,"* he says. *"But today, they stand on their own feet, earning their livelihood, and even inspiring others. Watching them progress makes me feel incredibly proud of the work we started."*

Manvar's journey is a true testament to the spirit of Sewa – serving selflessly and empowering communities to thrive.